

RUSHDEN URBAN DISTRICT



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the

Year 1952



P. X. BERMINGHAM, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Together with the Annual Report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector

H. W. ELLIS, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

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SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS, 1952.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,777
Population 1921 (census)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13,511
„ 1931	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14,247
„ 1952	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16,250
Number of separate dwellings occupied 1921 (census)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,076
„ „ „ „ „ 1931	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,827
„ „ „ „ „ 1952	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,433
Rateable Value, 1952	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£91,415
Product of a penny rate, 1952	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£362

Live Births.					<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Rate</i>
Legitimate ...	...	...	...	...	190	94	96	
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	10	6	4	
					200	100	100	12·30

Stillbirths.								
Legitimate ...	...	...	...	...	2	1	1	
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	
					2	1	1	0·12

					<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Rate</i>
Deaths (all causes)	...	...	...	...	204	97	107	12·55

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	...	nil.	
Other maternal causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	nil.	nil.

Infant Mortality—rate per 1,000 live births :

					<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Rate</i>
Legitimate ...	...	...	...	...	1	1	—	
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	
Total	...	...	...	...	1	1	—	5·00

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	nil.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	nil.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
After-Care—Tuberculosis	23
Ambulance facilities	10
Area	8
Births	3, 8, 9
Cancer	3, 8
Census	3, 8
Clean Food Drive	19
Clinics and Treatment Centres	10
Committee, Health and Sanitary	5
Deaths	3, 8, 9
Diarrhoea	3
Diphtheria Antitoxin	10
Diphtheria Immunisation	20
Disinfection	15, 40
Drainage and Sewerage	13, 40
Erysipelas	22
Factory Act	24, 42
Food and Drugs Act	46
Food—Inspection and Supervision of	18, 44, 50
Food Premises	47
Health Services, General Provision of	10
Hospitals	10, 11
Housing	17, 51
Ice-Cream	19, 45
Infant Mortality	3, 9
Infectious Diseases	20-23
Influenza	22
Laboratory Facilities	10
Maternal Mortality	3, 9
Maternity and Child Welfare	10
Measles	21
Meat Inspection	19
Methylene Blue Reduction Test	45
Milk Examination	18, 44
Milk and Dairies Orders	44
National Assistance Act, 1948	11
Natural and Social Conditions	8
Neonatal Mortality	9
Nursing in the Home	10
Pneumonia	21
Poliomyelitis	22
Population	3, 8
Public Health Act, S.269 and S.172	23
Public Health Officers	5
Puerperal Pyrexia	21
Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919	16, 41
Refuse Collection	16, 40
Sanitary Circumstances	12-16
Smallpox	20
Statistical Tables	25-33
Swimming Baths	16, 43
Tuberculosis	22
Vaccination	20
Washed Milk Bottles	18, 45
Water Supply	12
Whooping Cough	21

Rushden Urban District Council.

Members of the Health and Sanitary Committee :

COUNCILLOR H. WARING (*Chairman*), COUNCILLORS A. H. BAILEY, W. BROWN, W. E. CAPON, C. G. FAULKNER, A. GREEN, R. R. GRIFFITHS, MRS. W. M. LEAN, MRS. G. MARRIOTT.

COUNCILLOR J. ALLEN, J.P., Chairman of the Council, was an *ex-officio* member.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority :

Medical Officer of Health,

P. X. BERMINGHAM, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Also holds appointments of

Medical Officer of Health, Borough of Higham Ferrers.

Medical Officer of Health, Wellingborough Urban District.

Medical Officer of Health, Irthlingborough Urban District.

Medical Officer of Health, Wellingborough Rural District.

Assistant School Medical Officer.

Secretary :

MISS J. PEARSON.

Senior Sanitary Inspector, Meat Inspector :

H. W. ELLIS, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector :

B. HALL, M.S.I.A., Certified Meat and Food Inspector.

Public Health Department,
Swanspool,
Wellingborough.

July, 1952.

To The Chairman and Councillors of the Urban District of Rushden.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present this my fifth Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Urban District of Rushden for the year 1952.

Throughout the report a comparison between the vital statistics for Rushden and England and Wales is shown. On page 30 Table No. 7, a comprehensive list will be found. The birth rate of 12.30 showed a slight increase on the previous year when it was 12.26 per 1,000 of the population. The death rate for the period was 12.55 compared with 13.44 in the previous year. No deaths occurred from Puerperal causes and only one death has occurred from this cause since 1938. The infant mortality rate was 5.00 per 1,000 live births. In the previous year it was 5.02 when I reported that this was the lowest infant mortality rate ever recorded for Rushden. This is a very pleasing fact to have to report and speaks highly of the work carried out in the field of Maternity and Infant Welfare.

No serious outbreak of any of the infectious diseases occurred during the year, although in December, a Measles epidemic commenced. This ran on into the following year, and even though a large number of cases were notified, only one had to be removed to hospital, and no deaths occurred. 129 cases of Measles were notified compared with 248 in the previous year. Whooping Cough showed a fall, 17 cases compared with 38 in the previous year. The number of cases of Scarlet Fever showed a slight rise, 28 cases to 24 in 1951. It continued to be of a fairly mild variety. Six cases were removed to hospital, but often this precaution is taken in an endeavour to prevent spread or on account of lack of proper facilities to isolate the case. Two cases of Poliomyelitis occurred compared with one in the previous year. There was no connection between the cases and they occurred at widely separate intervals of the year. The area has now been clear of Diphtheria for a period of seven years and this is very satisfactory. The immunisation figures are being maintained at a satisfactory level and as long as this is so, there is no reason for anxiety with regard to this dangerous infectious disease. I wish the same could be said with regard to Smallpox. The vaccination figures are not satisfactory and compare unfavourably with those for Diphtheria immunisation. Outbreaks of Smallpox still occur in the country and vaccination is the only safeguard. The number of new cases of Tuber-

culosis showed a rise on the previous year and the number of deaths from this disease also showed an increase.

In section D, which deals with Housing, it will be seen that the building programme for the year was very satisfactory and a stage has now been reached when the Council can give some thought to slum clearance. It is hoped that a start will be made on this in 1953. Reference was made to the unsatisfactory situation with regard to sewage disposal on the Court Estate in last year's Annual Report. Since then, it is pleasing to record that a scheme has been prepared to deal with this area and has received Ministry approval.

A clean food campaign was instituted during the year and about twelve meetings were addressed by the Senior Sanitary Inspector and myself. It is estimated that about 1,000 persons attended these lectures and film shows. The response by the traders and townsfolk was satisfactory and later on a further series of more technical lectures for those engaged in the food trade is to be arranged.

In conclusion I should like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their assistance throughout the year and my appreciation of their interest in Health matters. I should also like to thank Mr. Millar, the Surveyor and Mr. Ellis, the Senior Sanitary Inspector, for information supplied for this report and for their ever ready help and assistance during the year. I should also like to thank Miss Pearson for her assistance in the preparation of this report.

Your obedient servant,

P. X. BERMINGHAM,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area. The Urban District of Rushden covers an area of 3,777 acres.

Population. The Registrar General in his returns for 1952 gives the population for Rushden as 16,250. This figure shows an increase of 30 on the estimated population for the previous year. Deaths outnumbered births by four during the period.

Deaths. 204 deaths occurred during the year. This number is 14 below the figure for the previous year. The death rate for the year was 12.55 compared with 13.44 for 1951. The rate for England and Wales for 1952 was 11.3. The following table shows a comparison between the death rates for England and Wales, Administrative County and Rushden for the period 1947 to 1952 :

Year	Rushden				County England & Wales	
	Total	Male	Female	Recorded Rate	Recorded Rate	Recorded Rate
1947	200	103	97	12.95	12.43	12.00
1948	184	95	89	11.27	11.00	10.80
1949	221	112	109	13.46	12.07	11.70
1950	222	108	114	13.48	12.01	11.60
1951	218	120	98	13.44	12.13	12.50
1952	204	97	98	12.55	*	11.3

* Not available

The causes of death is given in Table No. 1, page 25. The classification is in accordance with the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death, 1948. Table No. 2, page 26, gives the rates for deaths from selected causes for the period 1929 to 1952. Diseases of the Heart and Circulatory System were the cause of 50% of the 204 deaths, Cancer was responsible for 20%, Tuberculosis (all forms) 4%, and Diseases of the Respiratory System 8%.

Births. 200 live births were registered during the year. The number of male and female births were equal. One more birth was recorded than in 1951. The birth rate for 1952 was 12.30 compared with 12.26 in the previous year. The rate for England and Wales for 1952 was 15.3. The following table shows a comparison between the birth rates for England and Wales, Administrative County and Rushden, for the period 1948 to 1952 :

Birth Rate, 1948-1952.

	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
Rushden	17.34	13.34	13.79	12.26	12.30
Administrative County	17.46	16.19	15.71	15.57	*
England and Wales	17.9	16.7	15.8	15.5	15.3

* Not available.

Stillbirths. Two stillbirths were recorded during the year compared with three in the previous year. The rate for the year was 0.12 per 1,000 of population. The rate for 1951 was 0.18. The rate for England and Wales for 1952 was 0.35. Table No. 5, page 28 shows a comparison of stillbirths, illegitimate births and masculinity of birth rates over the period 1934 to 1952.

Illegitimate Births. Ten illegitimate births were recorded during the year. This gives a rate of 50 per 1,000 live births. The rate for the previous year was 35.17, when seven illegitimate births were recorded.

Maternity Mortality. No deaths were recorded under this heading. The last death which was assigned to maternal causes occurred in 1947 and this was the first since 1938.

Infant Mortality. One infant death occurred during the year. This gives a rate of 5.00 per 1,000 live births. The rate for the previous year was 5.02 when one infant also died. The number of births in 1951 was one less than 1952 and so the slight difference in the rate. This beats last year's record when the infant mortality rate was the lowest ever recorded. Table No. 4, page 27, gives the vital statistics for the period 1898 to 1952. The infant mortality rate for England and Wales for 1952 was 27.6.

In the following table a comparison is shown between the rates for England and Wales, Administrative County and Rushden for the period 1948 to 1952 :

Deaths under one year per 1,000 live births.						
		1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
Rushden	...	31·80(9)	13·69(3)	44·05(10)	5·02(1)	5·00(1)
Administrative						
County	...	31·67	33·78	29·53	25·26	*
England and						
Wales	...	34·00	32	29·8	29·6	27·6

* *Not available.*

Neonatal Mortality. This subdivision of the infant mortality rate includes all infant deaths within 28 days of independent existence. Table No. 3, page 26, gives the causes of infant deaths and week of occurrence. From this it will be seen that the one infant death occurred within 28 days of independent existence. The rate thus is 5.00 per 1,000 live births. In 1951 the rate was 5.02.

Deaths under one month per 1,000 live births.						
		1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
Rushden	...	14·13(4)	13·69(3)	26·43(6)	5·02(1)	5·00(1)

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Laboratory Service. The Emergency Public Health Laboratory at Northampton General Hospital provides facilities for the examination of specimens in connection with cases of infectious and communicable diseases. Copies of the results of specimens taken in the area are forwarded to me and the co-operation and assistance received from Dr. Hoyle during the year was much appreciated. Water samples, ice-cream and milk are also examined at this laboratory.

Specimens are also sent to the laboratory at Kettering General Hospital and the co-operation received also from Dr. Voss is appreciated.

Diphtheria Antitoxin. Supplies are kept at the following places :

Wellingborough Hospital
Northampton General Hospital
Rushden House Sanatorium
Rockingham Road, Kettering

Ambulance Service. This service is provided by the County Council by arrangements with the Rushden District Ambulance Association. Three ambulances serve the area. Cases of infectious disease are transported by the St. John's Ambulance Service, Northampton, who act for the County Council.

Nursing in the Home—Home Helps. These services are provided by the County Council and details concerning the work carried out in the area will be found in the Annual Report of the County Medical Officer of Health.

Treatment Centres and Clinics. The County Council run a Child Welfare Clinic at the Wesleyan Church Rooms, Queen Street, on Wednesday afternoons. Antenatal and Postnatal Clinics are held on Tuesday mornings at the same place.

Hospitals. Northampton and Kettering General Hospitals serve the area. The Hayway Hospital, Rushden, provides facilities for out-patients and is visited by consultants. Out-patient Clinics are held at this hospital as follows :

Gynaecological	...	1st and 3rd Monday morning
		2nd and 4th Tuesday morning

Medical	...	...	1st, 3rd, 4th and 5th Monday afternoon
Surgical	...	...	1st and 3rd Tuesday afternoon
			2nd, 4th and 5th Friday morning
E.N.T.	...	...	2nd and 4th Wednesday morning
			1st, 3rd and 5th Wednesday afternoon
Eyes	...	...	1st and 3rd Thursday morning
Orthoptist	...	...	Every Wednesday morning
			Every Thursday morning and afternoon
Urological	...	...	2nd and 4th Wednesday afternoon
Physiotherapy	...	...	Monday afternoons
Psychiatric	...	...	Every Friday afternoon
Skin	...	...	2nd and 4th Saturday morning

The Rushden House Sanatorium. The area is served by the Sanatorium. Out-patient Clinics are also held.

Isolation Hospital. The Harborough Road Hospital, Northampton, serves the area with regard to cases of infectious diseases. Ten cases were admitted to the hospital during the year.

National Assistance Act, 1948—Section 47—Persons in need of care and attention. No action was found necessary under the act during the year.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply. The Higham Ferrers and Rushden Water Board is responsible for the supply to the town. The area supplied by the Board covers Rushden, Higham Ferrers and part of the Wellingborough Rural Area. Representatives of the Board are drawn from these three Authorities. The Surveyor for the Urban District of Rushden is also the Water Engineer to the Board and I should like to express my appreciation for the information supplied by him for this section.

Sources. There are two main sources, Sywell and Wollaston. A third, Wymington is used only in case of emergency. Full details concerning these three sources were given in my Annual Report for 1949, so only a brief reference to the three sources will be made in this Report.

(1) *Sywell* reservoir is situated in the Wellingborough Rural Area and covers $68\frac{1}{2}$ acres. It is fed by the surrounding Catchment Area and springs. It has a capacity, when full, of 236,000,000 gallons. Treatment of water consists of filtration and chlorination. Three slow sand filters are used.

(2) *Wollaston*—Hardwater Crossing. The source here is water from wells sunk in the Nene Gravels. Filtration is carried out by means of two mechanical filters and water is then chlorinated.

(3) *Wymington works.* Used only in case of emergency. Four wells sunk into the Northampton sands at the outcrop of the Upper Lias Clay. Water is chlorinated by means of a portable chlorinator.

Hardness. Piped supply 25.72 parts per 100,000. This is a hard water.

Quality of Water. Chemical analysis of samples showed it to be satisfactory.

Bacteriological examination of supplies of water. 157 samples of water taken in the area covered by the Board by the Engineer's Department, the Senior Sanitary Inspector and myself gave the following results:

<i>Very Satisfactory</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Suspicious</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>	<i>Faecal Coli</i>
141	10	5	1	Nil

Further samples were taken in the villages of the Rural District of Wellingborough by me throughout the year.

The results of samples are satisfactory and the water supply to the town pure.

Water Consumption, Rushden. The daily consumption of water per head of population for domestic and municipal purposes for the period 1948 to 1952 was as follows :

			1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
Domestic and Municipal							
Purposes	...	...	23·83	20·7	20·6	22·35	21·5
Trade Purposes	...	...	4·43	4·65	9·31	5·3	6·0
Total			28·26	25·35	29·91	27·65	27·5

The situation has shown little change since the previous year and the demands for domestic and trade purposes are reasonable.

Piped Supply. 5,298 houses in the area have a piped water supply. This figure shows an increase of 110 on the previous year. 93 houses are dependent on standpipes for their water supply. This figure shows a decrease of five on the previous year. 40 houses are not supplied with a piped water supply. This is one less than in the previous year.

Number of Council houses connected to Towns mains during 1952—88

Number of private houses connected to Towns mains during 1952—22

The rainfall for the period 1948 to 1952 was :

			1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
Rushden	...	...	25·66	18·51	25·31	27·80	25·01
Sywell	...	...	25·35	18·48	24·88	26·94	22·22

All works connected with the Water Undertaking are well maintained.

Sewage Disposal, Drainage and Sewerage. The Sewage Works are situated on the outskirts of the town off the Wellingborough Road. The works are well screened from the town and are well maintained. Last year details of the treatment carried out at these works was given. Two samples of sewage for chemical analysis were taken during the year. The first sample was of crude sewage before treatment at the works and the second of final effluent before discharged into the brook. For comparative purposes these results are given and are as follows :

				<i>Crude Sewage taken at 11 a.m. on 16/4/52 Re-action P.H. 6.8 The Sample contained : parts per 100,000</i>	<i>Final Effluent taken at 11.30 a.m. on 16/4/52 Re-action P.H. 7.3 The Sample contained : parts per 100,000</i>
Suspended solids	...	...	...	72.8	13.4
Chlorine	...	...	...	327.0	11.0
Ammonia (Free or Saline)	...	...	...	8.100	0.600
Ammonia (Albuminoid)	...	...	...	1.600	0.060
Oxygen absorbed in 3 hrs. at 37°C.	...	...	...	17.490	2.937
Oxygen absorbed in 3 minutes	...	...	...	7.986	1.222
Dissolved oxygen absorbed in 5 days at 65°F. (B.O.D.)	...	...	...	109.5	1.67
Nitrates (expressed as Nitrogen)	...	...	...	0.40	8.5
Nitrites	...	...	...	Very heavy trace	Trace
Tar Acids (Phenols)	...	...	...	0.20	Absent
Sulphuretted Hydrogen	...	...	...	Absent	Absent
Thiocyanates	...	...	...	Absent	Absent
Thiosulphates	...	...	...	Trace	Faint Trace

Microscopical Examination of Deposit

Mineral matter, organic debris and some fungus	Mineral matter, organic debris and some fungus
--	--

Remarks (Crude Sewage) : The above results indicate a crude sewage of average strength. The presence of a small amount of Tar Acids (Phenols) should be noted.

(Final Effluent) : The figure obtained for suspended solids exceeds the limit recommended by the Royal Commission on Sewage Disposal (i.e., 3 parts per 100,000) whilst the B.O.D. value is within the recommended limit (2 parts per 100,000). Nitrification appears to be satisfactory.

It is to be recommended that the suspended solids be reduced before discharging this effluent into the river. It is evident that the small amount of phenols in the crude sewage does not interfere with the nitrification process.

From the foregoing it will be seen that the main problem with regard to the final effluent is the figure obtained for suspended solids. It exceeds the figure recommended by the Royal Commission on Sewage Disposal. It also exceeds the figures for the previous two years which were :

1950	...	...	...	6.9	parts per 100,000
1951	...	...	...	7.65	parts per 100,000

As suggested last year, it would appear that the settling tanks are not large enough, and that solids in solution have not sufficient time to settle at these works.

It is interesting to note the presence of small amounts of Tar Acids (Phenols) in the crude sewage, but as will be seen from the remarks on final effluent, it does not interfere with the nitrification process and is absent in the analysis of the final effluent. The Senior Sanitary Inspector in his report gives information regarding action taken during the year with a certain trade effluent containing these substances. It is a matter that requires watching in the interest of the protection of filter beds.

The following figures show the volume of sewage and storm water dealt with at the works during the period :

Total filtered	...	...	...	...	223,177,100	gallons
Total storm	...	...	...	...	56,574,580	„
Total filtered and storm	...	...	...	...	279,751,680	„
Daily average filtered	...	...	...	...	609,500	„
Daily average storm	...	...	...	...	154,520	„
Total filtered and storm	...	...	...	...	764,020	„
Maximum daily flow filtered	...	...	...	...	1,081,250	„
Maximum daily flow storm	...	...	...	...	1,402,192	„

The Court Estate. In last year's Annual Report it was stated that the situation with regard to sewage disposal for houses on this estate was unsatisfactory and that alternative methods for disposal should be considered. Further investigations were carried out during the year and a new scheme for dealing with this area has been adopted. It is pleasing to report this fact as prevention is better than cure, and to await an outbreak of one of the excremental diseases in this area before having the necessary concrete evidence to proceed with this work, would have been a very short sighted policy.

Closest Accommodation. The situation remains unchanged. Eight outlying houses in the area are dependent on bucket latrines. All other houses have closets and flushing cisterns.

Disinfection. A Disinfection Station is maintained by the Authority. Steam is used. Some reconstruction work has been carried out during the period and the building divided into a Clean and Dirty side. This is satisfactory, as no articles of clothing, bedding, etc., arriving for disinfection can now come into contact with articles disinfected. This is the only centre now remaining in the area and so is used by arrange-

ment by other neighbouring authorities. Details concerning the work carried out during the year will be found in the Senior Sanitary Inspector's report. Concurrent and terminal disinfection of houses associated with cases of infectious diseases was carried out during the period, when required. Liquid and gaseous disinfectants were used.

Swimming Baths. The open-air pool run by the Council is maintained in a satisfactory manner. The water is filtered and chlorinated and .5 free chlorine parts per million maintained. Samples of the water taken during the season were all found to be very satisfactory.

Moveable Dwellings. There is one licensed caravan site in the area which can accommodate up to 60 caravans. All amenities are provided on this site which is maintained in a satisfactory manner. Two further caravan sites in the Newton Road area were set up during the period, without the necessary licences and action had to be taken in the matter. The situation requires constant supervision and in the interests of the community, strict rules and regulations for caravan sites must be enforced. Caravans as permanent dwellings for families are not satisfactory and must be considered as sub-standard accommodation.

Rats and Mice Damage by Pests Act, 1949. A full-time rodent operator is engaged by the Council. Details of the valuable work carried out during the year will be found in the Senior Sanitary Inspector's report.

Public Cleansing. The Surveyor's Department is responsible for public cleansing. Three refuse vehicles for the collection of refuse are maintained. The tip is situated off the Bedford Road. It is not very well screened from the road, but few houses are in the vicinity. Controlled tipping is carried out. In the fly season the tip is sprayed. The rodent operator also keeps the area under observation.

SECTION D.

HOUSING

The work carried out by the Council in this field during the period was quite considerable. In view of the number of houses built since the war, it will be soon possible to take action with regard to slum clearance areas. This matter has been held in abeyance since 1939 due to the hold up in building caused by the war. Details of work carried out in 1952 is as follows :

Number of Council houses built during the year	...	88
(including 32 Gregory Flats and 4 aged persons dwellings improved)		
Number under construction at the end of the year	...	62
Number of licences for private dwellings issued	...	21
(22 less 1 withdrawn)		
Number of private houses built		18
(including 10 from licences issued in 1951)		
Number under construction		11
Number of houses converted into flats		1

The building programme since the war is as follows :

By the Council :

Temporary non-traditional prefabricated bungalows	...	50
Permanent flats		50
Aged persons dwellings improved		4
Houses Council		344
Houses private		100
(including 1 war damage)		
Conversion into flats		20
Police houses		7

Housing Applications. On 31st December, 1952, the situation was as follows :

Total number of applicants		365
----------------------------	--------	-----

This figure shows a decrease of 88 on the number of applicants at the end of the previous year. Many visits were made on request to the houses of applicants and reports provided to the Housing Department. All medical certificates supplied by doctors in the area were seen and points allocated in relation to the severity of each case.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

The Senior Sanitary Inspector in Part II of his report gives full details concerning the work carried out during the period in connection with the inspection and supervision of food.

Milk Supply. Once again the number of milk samples taken was considerable—144 samples were taken for examination and of these 92.2% were satisfactory and 7.8% unsatisfactory. These figures give some indication of the high standard with regard to milk in the town. The majority of unsatisfactory samples occurred in the warmest months of the year, when such are to be expected. It will be seen that of 55 samples of pasteurised milk examined, 55 passed the Phosphatase Test, showing that all had been correctly treated, and only one failed the Methylene Blue test. These results must be considered very satisfactory. The tendency in the area would appear to be directed towards pasteurised milk and at a rough estimate, over 70% of milk consumed in Rushden is pasteurised milk. Attention thus, to a certain extent, should be focussed on dairies with pasteurisation plants and the needs of an expanding business. The County Council are the Licensing Authority for pasteurisation plants and sample milk from these sources. As the Local Authority concerned, we also take samples, but, in my opinion, even at the risk of slight overlapping, this should be continued with. Milk is such an important item, and used so widely at the present time by the younger members of the community that all precautions should be taken. As I stated in my report last year, a true picture of the situation can only be obtained by taking frequent samples. Interchange of information between the County and this Authority takes place with regard to unsatisfactory results.

Two samples of milk for biological examination were taken. Both samples were negative for Tubercle Bacilli. Reports of samples taken by the County were received and these also were negative.

Rinsings from Washed Bottles. 89 samples were taken compared with 65 in the previous year. Activity in this sphere continues to increase and in the last three years the number of samples taken in a year has shown a substantial increase yearly. Of 89 samples taken 72 were satisfactory and 16 unsatisfactory. All unsatisfactory results are followed up and investigated, advice being given as necessary. It is interesting to note the remarks of the Senior Sanitary Inspector with regard to the necessity of normal washing of dirty milk bottles before

treatment in the washing machine. The general public in their own interest, should refrain from using milk bottles for any other purposes and should ensure that the bottles have a preliminary wash before being handed back to the milkman.

Manufacture and Sale of Ice-Cream. There are 53 premises registered for the sale of ice-cream and of these 47 sell pre-packed ice-cream. Sixty-seven samples were examined during the year with the following results :

<i>Grade I</i>	<i>Grade II</i>	<i>Grade III</i>	<i>Grade IV</i>
45	14	7	1

From this it will be seen that the majority of results fell into Grades I and II, with only one in Grade IV. These results are very satisfactory and Rushden continues to maintain a high standard with regard to ice-cream. 66 samples were taken in the previous year when the results were :

<i>Grade I</i>	<i>Grade II</i>	<i>Grade III</i>	<i>Grade IV</i>
42	17	3	4

The Ministry requirements suggest that at least 80% of the results should fall into Grades I or II. For the year 1952 88% of the results were in these grades.

Livestock (Restriction on Slaughtering) Order, 1940. The Rushden Abattoir serves the area. All carcasses are inspected prior to being passed as fit for human consumption. Details concerning these inspections and the results will be found in the Senior Sanitary Inspector's report.

Clean Food Drive. During the year a meeting of the Rushden and Higham Ferrers Traders was held. The Chairman and Mayor of the two authorities presided and films followed by a short lecture were given. The meeting was well attended and the objects of the Clean Food Campaign explained. Subsequently 12 further film shows followed by talks were given to different organizations in the town. It is estimated that over 1,000 persons attended these series of talks. It is hoped later on to arrange lectures and demonstrations of a more technical nature for persons engaged in the trade. The results of these activities should help considerably with regard to the setting of a higher standard for food hygiene in the area and help also with the cutting down of the incidence of food poisoning. Ignorance is often the cause of an outbreak of food poisoning and so by education we hope to lessen the chances of such outbreaks.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Smallpox. No cases were notified.

Vaccination. The vaccination figures for the year were as follows :

	<i>Under 1 yr.</i>	1-4	5-14	15 and over	<i>Total</i>
Primary	47	4	8	10	69
Re-vaccination	—	1	—	19	20
				Total	89
The figures for the previous year were :					
Primary	36	5	5	7	53
Re-Vaccination	—	—	4	21	25
				Total	78

From the above it will be seen that there has been some improvement in the numbers vaccinated. This slight rise has been noticed now over the last three years. The figures unfortunately, still fall far below what might be considered a safety level. Fifty-seven infants were vaccinated out of 200 live births. Compare this figure with the number of children immunised against Diphtheria, which is given later in the report, and see how unsatisfactory it is. Recent reports of outbreaks of Smallpox in the country have been reported in the national press and none of Diphtheria, and yet persons will not seek protection from this dangerous infectious disease. Contacts of cases, not infrequently, come to the town. The potential danger is ever present and it is my opinion that every effort should be made to increase our vaccination figures.

Diphtheria. This is the seventh year in which the area has been free from this disease.

Diphtheria Prophylaxis. The following figures show the number of children in the different age groups who completed a course of immunisation against Diphtheria during the year :

<i>Under 1</i>	1	2	3	4	5 to 9	10 to 14	<i>Total</i>	<i>Booster</i>
34	76	23	2	3	2	—	140	154

An Immunisation Clinic is held at the Alfred Street School on the first Saturday of each month, and above immunisations were carried out at this clinic. Children immunised by private arrangements are not included in these figures.

Parents now avail of the combined Diphtheria-Pertussis inoculation which protects against both Diphtheria and Whooping Cough, and it is noticed that the number of infants and children receiving this protection has shown an increase in recent years. The combined figures for the period were :

	<i>Under 1</i>	<i>1-4</i>	<i>5-14</i>	<i>Total</i>
Combined Diphtheria-Pertussis	6	111	2	119
Whooping Cough only	2	5	6	13

Now that the combined inoculation is being used it will be interesting to note the effect on the Whooping Cough figures. The following table shows the number of children in Rushden who had completed a full course of immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1952 :

Number of Children who had completed a full course of Immunisation at any time up to 31 December, 1952								
Age at 31.12.52 i.e. Born in Year ...	<i>Under 1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5 to 9</i>	<i>10 to 14</i>	<i>Total</i>
	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1943-1947	1938-1942	<i>under 15</i>
Number Immunised	8	107	156	116	197	1068	862	2514

Measles. 129 cases were notified compared with 248 in the previous year. Table No. 10, page 32, shows the monthly incidence, and from this it will be seen that only a few cases occurred throughout the months of the year, with the exception of December, when 121 cases were notified. This was the commencement of a Measles epidemic which ran into the early months of 1953. December and January were the two months when the majority of cases occurred and subsequently a fall in the number of cases occurred. Table No. 9, page 31, gives the age incidence of cases. One case was removed to hospital. No deaths occurred from this cause.

Whooping Cough. 17 cases were notified compared with 38 in the previous year.

Puerperal Pyrexia. One case was notified. No case occurred in the previous year.

Pneumonia. 11 cases of Pneumonia were notified compared with 15 in the previous year. Pneumonia was given as the primary cause of death in ten cases. In the previous year there were 12 deaths from this cause. Acute primary or Influenzal Pneumonia are notifiable, but Pneumonia as a secondary complication of some other illness is not. The majority of deaths come in this second category.

Influenza. One death occurred from this cause. In the previous year there was one death also.

Erysipelas. No cases were notified. Two cases occurred in the previous year.

Poliomyelitis. Two cases occurred during the year, the first in January and the second in July. The first case was non-paralytic but the second had a paralysis affecting the left upper limb. Both cases made good recoveries. Both cases were removed to hospital. In the previous year there was one case and four cases in 1950.

Tuberculosis. The number of new cases notified during the year was 14. Eleven were Pulmonary Tuberculosis (9 males and 2 females) and the three cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis all occurred in females. In the previous year 10 cases were notified, 9 of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and one Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis. Ten deaths from Tuberculosis occurred, 8 from Pulmonary and two from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis. In the previous year there were four deaths (3 Pulmonary). Table No. 8, page 31 gives the age incidence of new cases and deaths. Twelve cases were admitted to Rushden House Sanatorium and 8 discharged during the year. The number of cases (all forms) notified during the last twelve years were as follows :

1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
21	20	18	17	31	15	18	11	16	18	10	14

The Mortality from Tuberculosis during the same period was

1941-1952

<i>Year</i>	<i>Tuberculosis—all forms</i>			<i>Rate (crude) per 1,000 of population</i>	
	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Rushden</i>	<i>County</i>
1941	10	4	14	·79	·50
1942	4	4	8	·48	·49
1943	2	3	5	·32	·50
1944	4	7	11	·72	·62
1945	5	1	6	·43	·58
1946	7	3	10	·65	·45
1947	7	2	9	·58	·36
1948	4	2	6	·36	·42
1949	5	4	9	·54	·43
1950	1	2	3	·18	·30
1951	3	1	4	·24	·26
1952	8	2	10	·61	*

* Not available

The number of names on the Tuberculosis Register on 31st December, 1952 was as follows :

Total Number 124		<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	...	57	32	89
Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	...	18	17	35

Tuberculosis After-Care Committee. The town is fortunate in having a very active After-Care Committee and the work carried out by them during the year was of the usual high standard. Such a Committee is of inestimable value to the unfortunate sufferers from this disease and to the community at large.

No action was considered necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925, or under the Public Health Act, 1936, S. 172.

Food Poisoning. Three cases were notified during the year. Two of these cases were due to Salmonella Minnesota. The article of food responsible was discovered and the necessary action taken. These cases were connected with an outbreak of food poisoning in another part of the County. Further cases were avoided by the seizure of the infected articles and having them destroyed. The outbreak in the County commenced in late December and continued into early January. The third case of food poisoning in the area occurred in November. This case was due to a Staphylococcal Toxin. In the previous year no cases of food poisoning were notified.

Dysentery. No cases were notified. Two cases occurred in the previous year.

SECTION G.

THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937

There are 148 factories and workshops on the register. Table No. 11, page 33, gives details of the number of inspections carried out during the year and the action taken.

In those factories where mechanical power is not used, provision as to cleanliness, numbers employed, temperature, ventilation and drainage of floors, gave no cause for serious complaint.

There was no action necessary in respect of Home Work (Sections 110 and 111).

Further details concerning the work will be found in the Senior Sanitary Inspector's report.

SECTION H.

STATISTICAL TABLES.

TABLE No. 1.

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1952.

<i>Causes of Death</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	5	3	8
2. Tuberculosis, other	1	1	2
3. Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
7. Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	—	3
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus... ..	4	—	4
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	8	8
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	6	6
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	8	12	20
15. Leukæmia, aleukæmia	2	1	3
16. Diabetes	1	—	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	12	15	27
18. Coronary disease, angina	15	13	28
19. Hypertension with heart disease	3	2	5
20. Other heart disease	17	21	38
21. Other circulatory disease	2	2	4
22. Influenza	—	1	1
23. Pneumonia	5	5	10
24. Bronchitis	3	3	6
25. Other diseases of respiratory system... ..	—	1	1
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	—	—	—
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	—	—
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	—	—	—
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—	1
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
31. Congenital malformations	—	—	—
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	6	9	15
33. Motor vehicle accidents	3	—	3
34. All other accidents	2	2	4
35. Suicide	4	2	6
36. Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—
	97	107	204

TABLE No. 2.

DEATHS FROM SELECTED CAUSES, 1929-1952.

Year	Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Cancer		Diseases of Heart and Blood Vessels		Bronchitis, Pneumonia and other Respiratory Diseases	
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
1929	—	—	12	0.85	21	1.49	39	2.76	9	0.64
1930	1	0.08	7	0.49	11	0.78	38	2.71	16	1.14
1931	—	—	10	0.70	17	1.18	47	3.29	23	1.61
1932	1	0.07	10	0.70	10	0.70	48	3.37	18	1.26
1933	2	0.13	14	0.97	20	1.39	53	3.69	9	0.62
1934	1	0.07	10	0.69	22	1.52	81	5.62	9	0.62
1935	6	0.41	5	0.34	16	1.09	51	3.50	12	0.82
1936	3	0.20	9	0.61	18	1.22	66	4.47	12	0.81
1937	—	—	4	0.26	21	1.41	68	4.56	10	0.67
1938	—	—	10	0.66	23	1.52	69	4.57	7	0.46
1939	1	0.06	11	0.70	23	1.46	57	3.63	9	0.57
1940	3	0.17	10	0.60	32	1.92	78	4.69	23	1.38
1941	1	0.06	13	0.52	32	1.81	79	4.48	26	1.47
1942	1	0.06	7	0.43	28	1.72	72	4.42	13	0.80
1943	—	—	5	0.32	32	2.00	51	3.29	20	1.29
1944	4	0.26	7	0.46	22	1.45	101	6.66	22	1.45
1945	2	0.14	4	0.28	24	1.76	101	7.17	9	0.63
1946	3	0.19	7	0.46	29	1.90	106	6.31	18	1.18
1947	1	0.06	8	0.51	15	0.97	115	7.44	17	1.10
1948	—	—	6	0.36	30	1.83	95	5.82	16	0.98
1949	2	0.12	7	0.42	31	1.88	123	7.49	23	1.40
1950	—	—	3	0.18	34	2.06	117	7.10	26	1.57
1951	1	0.06	3	0.18	26	1.60	93	5.73	24	1.47
1952	2	0.12	8	0.49	41	2.52	102	6.27	17	1.04

TABLE No. 3.

CAUSES OF DEATH OF CHILDREN UNDER ONE YEAR.

Causes of Death	Age in Weeks					
	—1	—2	—3	—4	5-52	Total
1. Congenital malformations...	—	—	—	—	—	—
2. Diseases of Early Infancy						
Congenital debility and icterus. Premature Birth	—	—	—	—	—	—
Injury at Birth	—	—	—	—	—	—
Atelectasis	—	—	—	—	—	—
Others	—	—	—	—	—	—
3. Diseases of Respiratory System	—	—	—	—	—	—
4. Diseases of Digestive System	—	—	—	—	—	—
5. Diseases of Nervous System	—	—	—	—	—	—
6. Tuberculosis Diseases ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
7. Infectious Diseases ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
8. Syphilis	—	—	—	—	—	—
9. Overlaying	—	—	—	—	—	—
10. Other violence	—	—	—	—	—	—
11. All Other Causes	1	—	—	—	—	1
TOTAL	1	—	—	—	—	1

DEATH AND BIRTH RATES FOR 1899-1952.

TABLE No. 4.

Year	Estimated Population mid-year	Net Births		Net Deaths belonging to District			
		No.	Rate per 1,000	Under 1 year		At all Ages	
				No.	Rate per 1,000	No.	Rate per 1,000
1899	12,245	463	37.8	49	105.8	145	11.8
1900	14,359	434	30.2	65	149.0	153	10.6
1901	12,453	424	33.6	46	108.4	123	9.7
1902	12,961	407	31.4	50	122.8	133	10.2
1903	13,337	404	30.2	37	91.5	139	10.4
1904	13,713	387	28.2	46	118.8	162	11.8
1905	14,089	328	23.2	36	109.7	119	8.4
1906	14,190	351	24.7	40	113.9	122	8.5
1907	14,816	315	21.2	25	79.3	131	8.1
1908	15,192	310	20.4	35	112.9	122	8.0
1909	15,817	284	17.9	31	109.1	130	8.2
1910	16,442	278	16.9	20	71.9	128	7.7
1911	13,377	281	21.0	29	103.2	130	9.7
1912	13,658	287	21.0	24	83.6	121	8.8
1913	13,752	237	17.2	19	80.1	118	8.7
1914	13,915	246	17.6	18	73.1	124	8.9
1915	13,787	277	19.9	30	108.3	145	10.5
1916	13,531*	256	17.3	15	58.5	138	10.1
1917	12,315*	200	14.5	12	60.0	123	9.9
	13,728†						
	14,722†						
1918	12,900*	158	12.7	8	43.2	129	10.0
	14,454†						
1919	13,850*	206	14.2	27	131.0	153	11.0
	14,428†						
1920	14,402	328	22.7	24	73.1	133	9.2
1921	13,720	273	19.8	22	80.5	147	10.7
1922	13,740	247	17.9	19	76.9	132	9.6
1923	13,790	243	17.6	12	49.3	131	9.4
1924	13,750	198	14.4	11	55.5	135	9.8
1925	13,780	211	15.3	13	61.6	138	10.0
1926	13,520	208	15.3	6	28.8	131	9.7
1927	13,550	174	12.8	10	57.4	139	10.2
1928	13,650	174	12.0	10	57.4	146	10.6
1929	14,020	174	12.4	9	51.7	127	9.0
1930	14,020	191	13.6	7	36.6	121	8.6
1931	14,280	161	11.3	8	49.7	154	10.8
1932	14,240	170	11.9	10	58.8	142	9.9
1933	14,370	168	11.7	7	47.6	159	11.1
1934	14,410	161	11.2	8	49.7	180	12.5
1935	14,550	176	12.1	15	85.2	155	10.7
1936	14,740	182	12.3	5	27.5	167	11.3
1937	14,890	191	12.9	6	31.4	155	10.4
1938	15,090	192	12.7	6	31.3	160	10.6
1939	15,690*	225	14.2	6	26.7	152	9.7
	15,200†						
1940	16,580	200	12.4	16	77.7	233	14.1
1941	17,600	193	10.9	11	54.1	185	10.5
1942	16,250	251	15.5	6	23.9	163	10.0
1943	15,490	281	18.1	8	28.4	172	11.1
1944	15,140	278	18.4	15	53.9	202	13.3
1945	14,070	282	20.0	14	49.6	176	12.6
1946	15,210	270	17.74	9	33.33	215	14.13
1947	15,440	308	19.94	8	25.97	200	12.95
1948	16,320	283	17.34	9	31.80	184	11.27
1949	16,410	219	13.34	3	13.69	221	13.46
1950	16,460	227	13.79	10	44.05	222	13.48
1951	16,220	199	12.26	1	5.02	218	13.44
1952	16,250	200	12.30	1	5.00	204	12.55

(*) Estimated population for calculation of Birth Rates

(†) Estimated population for calculation of Death Rates.

TABLE No. 5.

**COMPARISON OF STILLBIRTHS, ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS
AND MASCULINITY OF BIRTH.
1934-52.**

<i>Year</i>	<i>Stillbirths per 1,000.</i>		<i>Illegitimate births per 1,000 live births.</i>	<i>Male births per 1,000 live female births.</i>
	<i>Population of all ages.</i>	<i>Total births (live and still).</i>		
1934	0.55	47.32	49.69	1038
1935	0.76	58.83	39.77	934
1936	0.27	21.51	54.94	1166
1937	0.27	20.51	26.18	1010
1938	0.26	20.41	52.30	1087
1939	0.51	34.34	48.89	1008
1940	0.42	33.89	25.00	923
1941	0.51	44.54	56.99	1144
1942	0.31	19.54	75.70	1002
1943	0.89	47.45	53.46	1006
1944	0.55	32.05	133.09	1122
1945	0.21	20.83	95.74	1389
1946	0.39	21.73	55.55	1368
1947	0.38	25.47	32.46	1013
1948	0.61	34.12	42.40	1035
1949	0.12	9.04	36.52	1126
1950	0.30	21.55	30.83	1026
1951	0.18	14.85	35.17	809
1952	0.12	9.90	50.00	1000

TABLE No. 6.

**MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH.
AGE AND SEX INCIDENCE.**

<i>Age Periods</i>			<i>Measles</i>		<i>Whooping Cough</i>	
			<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
— 6 months	...		—	—	2	—
—12 "	...		—	4	—	—
—18 "	...		2	2	2	—
— 2 years	...		1	5	—	1
—2½ "	...		5	4	—	—
— 3 "	...		3	3	—	—
— 4 "	...		4	8	1	1
— 5 "	...		10	5	3	4
—10 "	...		39	31	3	—
—15 "	...		—	2	—	—
15 „+	...		1	—	—	—
ALL AGES	...	...	65	64	11	6
TOTALS	...	...	129		17	

TABLE No. 7.

BIRTH-RATES, CIVILIAN DEATH-RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY AND CASE RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES FOR RUSHDEN URBAN DISTRICT AND ENGLAND AND WALES. 1952.

	<i>England and Wales</i>	<i>Rushden</i>
<i>Births. Rates per 1,000 Home Population</i>		
Live Births... ..	15·3	12·30
Stillbirths	0·35	0·12
	22·6(a)	
<i>Deaths</i>		
All Causes	11·3	12·55
Typhoid	0·00	0·00
Whooping Cough	0·00	0·00
Diphtheria	0·00	0·00
Tuberculosis	0·24	0·61
Influenza	0·04	0·06
Smallpox	0·00	0·00
Acute Polio-myelitis (including Polio-encephalitis)...	0·01	0·00
Pneumonia	0·47	0·61
<i>Notifications</i>		
Typhoid	0·00	0·00
Paratyphoid	0·02	0·00
Meningococcol Infection	0·03	0·00
Scarlet fever	1·53	1·72
Whooping Cough	2·61	1·04
Diphtheria	0·01	0·00
Erysipelas	0·14	0·00
Smallpox	0·00	0·00
Measles	8·86	7·93
Pneumonia	0·72	0·67
Acute Polio-myelitis (including Polio-encephalitis)—		
Paralytic	0·06	0·06
Non-Paralytic	0·03	0·06
Food Poisoning	0·13	0·18
Puerperal Pyrexia	17·87(a)	0·06
<i>Deaths. Rates per 1,000 Live Births</i>		
All causes under 1 year of age...	27·6(b)	5·00
Enteritis and diarrhoea under 2 years of age	1·1	0·00

(a) per 1,000 total (live and still) births

(b) per 1,000 related live births

TABLE No. 8.

NEW CASES OF AND DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS, 1952.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
— 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
— 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—15	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1
—25	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
—35	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—45	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
—55	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
—65	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 +	1	2	—	—	3	2	—	—
TOTALS	9	2	—	3	5	3	1	1

TABLE No. 9.

AGE INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

(Other than Tuberculosis). 1952.

Disease	—1	—2	—3	—4	—5	—10	—15	—20	—35	—45	—65	65+	All Ages	Removed to Hospital	Deaths
Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	—	1	1	2	6	14	4	—	—	—	—	—	28	6	—
Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	8	2	11	—	10
Measles ...	4	10	15	12	15	70	2	—	—	—	1	—	129	1	—
Whooping cough	2	3	—	2	7	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	17	—	—
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	3	1	—
Dysentery ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	6	14	16	16	29	88	6	1	—	1	12	2	191	10	10

TABLE No. 10.

MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

(Other than Tuberculosis). 1952.

DISEASE	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	TOTALS
Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet fever ...	4	6	1	1	5	—	1	4	1	1	1	3	28
Pneumonia ...	1	3	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	3	11
Measles ...	—	—	1	—	2	—	1	2	—	—	2	121	129
Whooping cough	8	4	2	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	17
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Poliomyelitis ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3
TOTALS ...	16	13	5	4	8	1	3	6	2	2	4	127	191

TABLE No. 11.
Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937, for the year, 1952.

PART I OF THE ACT

1.—**Inspections** for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Number on Register</i>	<i>Number of</i>		
		<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Written notices</i>	<i>Occupiers prosecuted</i>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	6	2	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	140	46	7	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	2	2	1	—
TOTAL ...	148	50	8	Nil.

2.—Cases in which **defects** were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	3	3	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	3	3	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) :					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	4	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	12	11	—	—	—

PART VIII OF THE ACT
Outwork (Sections 110 and 111)

<i>Nature of Work</i>	<i>Section 110</i>			<i>Section 111</i>		
	<i>No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)</i>	<i>No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council</i>	<i>No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists</i>	<i>No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises</i>	<i>Notices served</i>	<i>Prosecutions</i>
Wearing Apparel—						
Making, etc. ...	123	—	—	—	—	—
Cleaning and washing ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paper bags	—	—	—	—	—	—
The making of boxes or other receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper	—	—	—	—	—	—
Stuffed toys... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	123	—	—	—	—	—

RUSHDEN URBAN DISTRICT



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the

Year 1952



H. W. ELLIS, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspector's Department

STAFF, 1952

Senior Sanitary Inspector :
H. W. ELLIS, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector :
B. HALL, M.S.I.A.

Student Pupil :
Post Vacant.

Clerk and Shorthand Typist :
Miss A. E. Bettles.

Outside Staff :
W. West—*Disinfector and General Labourer*
R. Butler—*Rodent Operator*

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

Public Health Department,
Council Buildings,
Rushden.

1952.

To the Chairman and Councillors of the Rushden Urban District Council

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the annual report on the environmental circumstances of the district for the year 1952.

The Public Health Department continued to press for a higher standard of food handling, the accent being on education, followed by routine inspection, and there is no doubt that the winter campaign of lecturing and film shows contributed to the many improvements carried out during the year. The improvement of premises is only part of the problem of securing clean food, and can never replace the fundamental necessity of personal cleanliness, and therefore routine inspections of officers will always be necessary to maintain standards.

The caravan problem was again in evidence as the number of American resident servicemen increased, and the difficulty of dealing with such situations was abundantly clear when sites were established in the Newton Road area. Legislation is inadequate and obsolete for the control of residential caravan sites, and there is an obvious need for the dovetailing of the Public Health and Town Planning law on this subject.

Conditions at the Abattoir were improved, with the installation of labour saving devices, and there are also signs that the Government are realizing the need for some definite policy to determine the future of the meat trade.

Contact with the public was further strengthened by a course of twelve lectures given to the local branch of the St. John Ambulance Association.

The staff establishment remained substantially the same, except for the transfer of Miss A. E. Bettles from the Clerk's Department to fill the post of Clerk and Shorthand Typist, and the post of Student Pupil is likely to remain vacant unless the Working Party now investigating the Recruitment and Training of Sanitary Inspectors finds a solution to the difficulties confronting those wishing to enter the profession.

I wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee, who have once more given support and encouragement to my efforts, my staff for their work which has made this report possible, and Dr. P. X. Bermingham, who is always ready to advise and co-operate on public health matters.

Details of the Department's activities will be found in the text of the report which follows.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

H. W. ELLIS,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

PART I

GENERAL SANITARY ADMINISTRATION

The following tables indicate the extent of the work carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year.

1. VISITS AND INSPECTIONS.

Houses—

Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	...	719
Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	95
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	45
Complaints	...	...	...	...	...	93
Drainage Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	314
Drainage Tests	...	...	...	...	...	88
Rivers and Streams	...	...	...	...	...	3
Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	...	...	...	...	78
Stables and Piggeries	...	...	...	...	...	62
Rats and Mice Infestation	...	...	...	...	...	500
Insect Pests	...	...	...	...	...	56
Factories, with power	...	...	...	...	...	46
Factories, without power	...	...	...	...	...	2
Workplaces	...	...	...	...	...	2
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	57
Swimming Pools	...	...	...	...	...	1
Smoke Observations	...	...	...	...	...	3
Vacant Land and Dumps	...	...	...	...	...	1
Common Yards and Passages	...	...	...	...	...	2
Interviews with Owners, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	169
Miscellaneous Visits	...	...	...	...	...	83
Verminous Premises or Rooms	...	...	...	...	...	14
Cesspools	...	...	...	...	...	2
Revisits to Premises Under Notice—P.H. Act	...	...	...	...	...	310
Revisits to Premises Under Notice—H. Act	...	...	...	...	...	2
Work in Progress	...	...	...	...	...	11
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	...	6

Meat and Foods—

Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	438
Butchers' Shops and Stalls	...	...	...	...	...	91
Fishmongers and Poulterers	...	...	...	...	...	14
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	...	...	...	...	...	10
Grocers and Other Food Shops	...	...	...	...	...	45
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	23
Dairies and Milk Shops	...	...	...	...	...	26
Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	...	4
Ice-Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	...	5
Manufacture or Preparation of Preserved Food	...	...	...	...	...	21
Restaurants and Dining Rooms	...	...	...	...	...	27
Other Food Premises	...	...	...	...	...	15
Food Vans and Vehicles	...	...	...	...	...	2
Public Markets and Food Stalls	...	...	...	...	...	1
Visits <i>re</i> Unsound Food	...	...	...	...	...	92
Milk Samples Taken	...	...	...	...	...	142
Milk Bottles and Churn Rinses Sampled	...	...	...	...	...	88
Water Samples Taken—Main	...	...	...	...	...	19
Water Samples Taken—Wells	...	...	...	...	...	9
Water Samples Taken—Swimming Pools	...	...	...	...	...	10
Interviews at Office	...	...	...	...	...	368
Telephone calls made	...	...	...	...	...	118
Telephone calls received	...	...	...	...	...	85
Ice-Cream Samples Taken	...	...	...	...	...	68

TOTAL VISITS AND INSPECTIONS	...	...	...	...	...	4,487
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Notices Served—

P.H. Acts (Informal)	...	...	...	...	...	106
P.H. Acts (Statutory)	...	...	...	...	...	4

VISITS AND INSPECTIONS—cont.

H. Acts (Informal)...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Factories Act	...	...	...	...	...	5
Food and Drugs Act	...	...	...	...	...	2
Milk and Dairies Regulations	...	...	...	...	...	1
TOTAL NOTICES SERVED	...	...	...	...	...	119

NUISANCES ABATED AND DEFECTS REMEDIED

Year ending December, 1952

Houses—

Roofs Repaired or Renewed	...	...	...	...	19
Walls (External) Repointed, etc.	...	...	...	...	4
Wall Plaster Repaired	...	...	...	...	5
Floors Repaired or Renewed	...	...	...	...	10
Ceiling Plaster Repaired	...	...	...	...	5
Windows Repaired or Renewed	...	...	...	...	5
Fireplaces Repaired or Renewed	...	...	...	...	1
Sinks or Wash Basins Provided	...	...	...	...	2
Sinks Repaired or Renewed	...	...	...	...	4
Sink Waste Pipes Repaired or Renewed	...	...	...	...	4
Interior Water Supplies Provided	...	...	...	...	—
Repairs to Water Supplies	...	...	...	...	2
Rainwater Pipes Repaired or Renewed	...	...	...	...	2
Eaves Guttering Repaired or Renewed	...	...	...	...	1
Chimneys and Stacks Repaired	...	...	...	...	1
Yards and Passages Paved or Repaired	...	...	...	...	4
Dampness Abated	...	...	...	...	6

Drainage—

Drains Cleared of Obstructions	...	...	...	...	68
Drains Repaired or Reconstructed	...	...	...	...	93
Drains Connected to Sewers	...	...	...	...	7
Inspection Chambers Provided or Repaired	...	...	...	...	66
Vent Pipes or F.A.I.'s Provided or Repaired	...	...	...	...	13
New Gullies Provided	...	...	...	...	43
Cesspools Cleansed or Repaired	...	...	...	...	15
New Cesspools Constructed	...	...	...	...	2
Cesspools Abolished	...	...	...	...	13

Water Closets—

New W.C.'s Provided	...	...	...	...	26
W.C. Compartments Repaired	...	...	...	...	8
W.C.'s Cleansed	...	...	...	...	1
W.C. Pedestals Provided	...	...	...	...	5
W.C. Cisterns Provided or Repaired	...	...	...	...	27
Water Closets Abolished	...	...	...	...	1
Urinal Flushing System Provided	...	...	...	...	1

Miscellaneous—

Dustbins—New Provided	...	...	...	...	39
Offensive Accumulations Removed	...	...	...	...	8
Verminous Premises Disinfested	...	...	...	...	3
Dirty Premises Cleansed	...	...	...	...	1
Premises Cleared—Rats and Mice	...	...	...	...	267
Accumulations Removed	...	...	...	...	2

Contraventions Remedied In—

Shops	...	...	...	...	2
Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	...	...	1
Butchers' Premises	...	...	...	...	10
Food Premises Generally	...	...	...	...	18
Stables and Piggeries	...	...	...	...	2
Factories and Workplaces	...	...	...	...	12
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	6
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	8

TOTAL DEFECTS REMEDIED	...	...	...	...	943
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2. Drainage and Sanitation.

Attention was again directed to the unsewered area of the Court Estate. Although the provision of a piped water supply and a cesspool emptying service has improved the amenities to a great extent, the ample supply of water tends to aggravate the sewage disposal problems. Following detailed reports by the Medical Officer of Health and the Senior Sanitary Inspector, a long term policy for sewerage disposal was adopted. This policy should solve these problems, and offer opportunity for further development.

It is hoped that the first phase, dealing with twenty-four bungalows in the Newton Road, will be approved and completed at an early date.

The supervision of drainage works entailed three hundred and fourteen visits for the purpose of inspection or advice, and tests were applied on eighty-eight occasions, thirteen schemes being of sufficient scope to warrant the submission of plans.

Four defective combined drainage systems were discovered in the Irchester, Wellingborough, Washbrook and Station Roads. Sketch plans and details of the defects were supplied to the Surveyor, who arranged for the execution of repairs in accordance with section 24 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

3. Refuse Collection.

In general, the Public Health Department won and consolidated a situation which assured a proper dustbin for every property in the district, and it is satisfying to note that the galvanised dustbin is again in production ; the lowered specification, adopted during the metal shortage in 1951, had it continued for a long period, would have constituted a serious threat to future hygienic collection of refuse.

Thirty-nine dustbins were supplied to properties as a result of informal action by the Department, this figure representing only one per cent of the private houses in the district.

If the Council decide to reconsider a scheme for the municipal ownership of dustbins, previously referred to in the 1949 Annual Report, no other period will be found more opportune than the present time.

4. Disinfestations and Disinfections.

The demand for the disinfection service within the urban district was maintained at much the same level as in the previous year, although the increasing requests from private persons is perhaps indicative of the awareness of the public to the importance of hygiene, due, no doubt, to the publicity given to such matters nowadays.

Bed Bugs

Three properties were treated for the eradication of bed bugs, and one house for an infestation by fleas.

Disinfections

		<i>Rooms</i>	<i>Articles of Bedding</i>	<i>Articles of Clothing</i>
After cases of Infectious Disease ...		47	166	7
After cases of Tuberculosis ...	...	20	9	—
Verminous Premises ...	...	15	32	—
Private Requests ...	...	38	39	53
Local Authorities ...	...	—	62	26
Articles Destroyed ...	...	—	131	37

Amount recoverable (from private requests, etc.) : £22/5/-

Disinfection Station

Agreements having been made to carry out works of disinfection for neighbouring local authorities, provision was made for the enlargement and re-arrangement of the station, and these works were commenced in December, 1952.

5. Rodent Control.

The rodent destruction service is now well established, and the public is aware of the benefits available by simply notifying the Public Health Department. The extension of a free service to private dwelling houses has not been abused, and the operator has been able to cope with the increased demand for his services.

The town sewers have been test-baited and treated on two occasions, with good results.

Ten factory managements entered into contracts with the Council for the destruction of rodents, and, while it is not intended to extend this scheme of service to the detriment of the scheme as a whole, premises liable to re-infestation were constantly supervised.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1939

The following report for the year 1952 was submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

	<i>Local Authority</i>	<i>Dwelling Houses</i>	<i>Agri- cultural</i>	<i>All other (including Business and Industrial)</i>	<i>Total</i>
I. Total number of properties in Local Authority's District	27	5,200	16	913	6,156
II. Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during 1952 as a result of (a) notification, or (b) otherwise	(a) 5	100	—	19	124
	(b) 9	96	1	71	177
III. Number of properties found to be infested with rats	Major 4	15	—	5	24
	Minor 15	132	1	36	184
IV. Number of properties found to be seriously infested with mice	—	18	—	40	58
V. Number of infested properties treated by Local Authority	19	165	1	81	266
VI. Structural Works ... (i.e., rat proofing)	—	—	—	—	—

Number of "Block" control schemes carried out—33.

6. Moveable Dwellings.

The influx of American servicemen into Northamptonshire revived the problem of housing accommodation, which had been largely overcome by new building. Many of these Americans were married, and had adopted a caravan life.

Two caravan sites, involving eight and twelve caravans respectively, were established in the Newton Road area. One site was unauthorised, the other being granted a licence but being prevented from developing the site by the Town Planning Authority, whose decision is being challenged by the estate developers.

Proceedings were taken by the Council against the owner of the unauthorised site, the magistrates imposing a fine of £5 and ordering the removal of the eight caravans.

Two single caravans parked on private properties were dealt with by the Town Planning Authority, and another being used in conjunction with an old office building was removed when the property was closed in accordance with section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

7. Factories and Workshops.

At the end of December, 1952, there were 148 factories and workshops on the register. A special period during the year was set aside for routine inspections, fifty visits being made. As a result, eight written notices were served requiring various improvements, two cases involving the reconstruction of sanitary blocks. The reconstruction of another sanitary block at a large factory is being delayed due to Town Planning difficulties.

The number of outworkers in the boot and shoe industry has decreased, but the reason is probably that workers go to the factories part time instead of doing work in their own home. It is well known that managements prefer the workers to carry out operations at factories under supervision, than employ people working in their own houses.

The table showing inspections and defects remedied will be found on page 33 of the Medical Officer's report.

8. Rag Flock Act, 1951.

A survey of the establishments using rag flock and filling materials revealed only one factory which required registration in accordance with the Act.

9. Trade Effluent—Drainage.

Nuisances, arising from deposits of tar and sulphates of ammonia in the drainage systems in the vicinity of the Gas Works, reached a serious level during the year and demanded action. After meetings and negotiations with officials of the East Midlands Gas Board, a small purification plant was constructed to deal with gas liquor, and it is hoped that the improvements effected will prevent excess precipitation in the drains and sewers.

10. Swimming Pool.

Eight samples of the water from the swimming pool were taken during the season. All results were satisfactory.

11. Smoke Abatement.

Small boilers in factories were largely responsible for the nuisances arising from emission of smoke and grit, and were easily remedied by interviewing the management, who are always willing to co-operate.

In one case, a conference was held at which representatives from the factory, the Public Health Department, and the firm who had installed the plant were present. As a result of this conference, the factory chimney was extended and adjustments made to the plant. No further complaint has been received.

The more serious problem referred to in the 1950 report was again a source of trouble during the year. Representations being made, the management engaged the services of a consulting engineer, who made a detailed survey, and supplied a comprehensive report. The effects of his recommendations are now being awaited.

PART 2.

SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

1. Milk and Dairies.

There are signs indicating a continued trend toward the concentration of milk distributors in the Rushden area, although the number of purveyors on the register remained the same. Anticipating the appointed day, 1st October, 1954, when all pasteurised milk must be bottled on the premises where pasteurising takes place, two dairymen have now installed the necessary plants to meet this situation.

Six T.T., one Accredited and six supplementary licences for pasteurised milk were issued under the Milk (Special Designation) Orders, 1936-49.

At the end of December, 1952, there were eleven purveyors on the register, three being producer retailers.

Examination of Milk

One hundred and forty-four samples were taken for examination by the prescribed tests carried out by the Public Health Laboratory at Northampton.

The results were the best recorded for many years, showing that the standard of the milk supply is not only being maintained, but considerably improved.

The analyses of the 1952 samples were as follows :

92·2% satisfactory
7·8% unsatisfactory.

Again, the bulk of the unsatisfactory results were recorded during July and August, when overnight atmospheric temperatures approached or exceeded 65°F.

Milk Samples						
Month		No. of samples taken	No. examined	Good	Bad	Test invalid
January	...	12	12	11	1	—
February	...	12	12	12	—	—
March	...	12	12	12	—	—
April	...	12	12	11	1	—
May	...	12	12	11	1	—
June	...	12	12	11	1	—
July	...	12	12	5	4	3
August	...	12	12	8	3	1
September	...	12	12	12	—	—
October	...	12	12	12	—	—
November	...	12	12	12	—	—
December	...	12	12	12	—	—
Totals	...	144	144	129	11	4

Fifty-five samples of pasteurised milk were submitted to the prescribed Phosphatase test, with the following results :

<i>Samples taken</i>	<i>Test</i>	<i>Passed</i>	<i>Failed</i>	<i>Test invalid</i>
55	Phosphatase	55	—	—
	Methylene Blue	50	1	4

No sample failed the phosphatase test, indicating that all samples had been correctly heat treated, and only one sample failed the Methylene Blue test.

Washed Milk Bottles.

This method of control over milk hygiene has been stepped up during the past year, in order to guard against the possible mis-handling of mechanical washing machines ; one such machine in the area deals with 10,000 bottles per day.

The taking of such samples has assisted in detecting the limits of hypochlorite sterilising agents, and proving the necessity for manual washing of very dirty bottles prior to machine washing.

It is of little use ensuring a clean milk if the product is then put into dirty containers, and therefore this work must be regarded as an important part of controlling the distribution of milk.

Washed Milk Bottles

<i>Month</i>	<i>No. Samples taken</i>	<i>No. examined</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>
January ...	8	8	5	3
February ...	7	7	6	1
March ...	9	9	7	2
April ...	4	3	3	—
May ...	6	6	6	—
June ...	8	8	6	2
July ...	8	8	7	1
August ...	6	6	3	3
September ...	9	9	5	4
October ...	8	8	8	—
November ...	8	8	8	—
December ...	8	8	8	—
TOTALS ...	89	88	72	16

Biological Samples

Two samples of raw milk were taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli. Both samples gave negative results.

2. Manufacture and Sale of Ice Cream.

The pattern of ice cream trade, now clearly defined, was almost exclusively confined to the sale of the pre-packed product.

Manufacture of ice cream was carried out on a very small scale, the largest firm having closed their factory, preferring to supply their multiple shops with the pre-packed type ; one cold mix manufacturer also reverted to the sale of pre-packed ice cream.

The state of the register at the end of 1952 was as follows :

Hot mix manufacturers	...	...	2
Cold mix manufacturers	...	...	3
Sellers of bulk ice cream	...	...	1
Sellers of pre-packed ice cream		...	47
Total			53

Although there were *twelve* different brands on sale, a number of traders have changed to the larger nationally advertised firms for their supplies, and the time is approaching when those firms will be supplying the bulk of the pre-packed ice cream.

Sixty-seven samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, giving a series of the twelve brands. The table shows the results were well within the prescribed standards recommended by the Ministry of Health.

Ice Cream Samples.

MAY TO SEPTEMBER, 1952

<i>Brands.</i>	<i>Samples Taken.</i>	<i>Grades 1 Good.</i>	<i>2 F. Good.</i>	<i>3 Fair.</i>	<i>4 Bad.</i>
A	6	3	3	—	—
B	6	4	1	1	—
C	7	4	1	2	—
D	6	5	—	1	—
E	4	4	—	—	—
F	6	5	—	—	1
G	6	5	1	—	—
H	6	4	1	1	—
I	6	4	1	1	—
J	6	5	1	—	—
K	6	1	4	1	—
L	2	1	1	—	—
Totals	67	45	14	7	1

3. Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Extensive publicity on food hygiene was given to traders and organizations during the winter months, through the medium of a Clean Food Campaign. The campaign took the form of film shows and lectures, given by the Medical Officer of Health and the Senior Sanitary Inspector, the lectures being preceded by a joint meeting of the Rushden and Higham Ferrers traders, who were informed of the course of action to be taken by the Health Departments.

Twelve lectures and film shows were given to larger organizations in the town, and it was estimated that over one thousand persons attended. It is hoped to follow this action by giving lectures, of a more technical nature, to food handlers next winter, the opinion being that it is better to promote a gradual education in these matters.

The effects of an outbreak of food poisoning in a distant part of the county reached as far as the Rushden area, but the affected food was disposed of before causing any serious illness.

The policy of improving all types of food premises was continued, and good progress made. One food manufacturer re-organized his business and constructed new preparation rooms, two confectioners met the requirements of the Health Department when establishing new businesses, and the programme outlined for the licensed premises neared completion.

A potato crisp factory, a restaurant kitchen, and a butchery business were closed during the period under review.

The following notes show the continuation of the action recorded in 1951.

GROCERS.

Forty-five visits were made, and works required to be carried out to make the premises comply with section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, completed in eight shops.

Sinks, drainage and water heaters were provided in four shops.

LICENSED PREMISES.

Visits were continued to public houses and clubs, and improvements were carried out in accordance with an agreed programme. These improvements included provision of extra sanitary accommodation, relaying of cellar floors and the provision of sinks.

DAIRIES.

Twenty-six visits were made, and improvements carried out in two dairies.

The use of one dairy was discontinued, and one new dairy was constructed.

BUTCHERS' SHOPS AND COOKED MEAT MANUFACTURERS.

Improvements involving the provision of sinks, drainage and water heaters were carried out at seven premises.

BAKERS AND CONFECTIONERS.

Fifty-seven inspections were carried out for the purpose of applying the Food Bye-Laws. Work was completed at five premises ; two bake-houses fell into disuse, probably due to economic reasons.

4. Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

One licence to slaughter animals was granted, and three licenses renewed during 1952.

5. Meat and Food Inspection.

The shortage of imported meat made further demands on the home killed product, and the number of animals passing through the Bedford Road Abattoir created a record for the post war years. However, the character of the supply changed in so far that peak periods were levelled out, and slaughtering took place at a fairly high rate throughout the year.

Although 3,000 more animals were admitted for slaughtering, the number of cows was 300 fewer, which, together with the improvement in the quality of the animals, accounted for a reduction of eighteen tons in the weight of meat and offal condemned.

The incidence of *cysticercus bovis* decreased by 50%, nineteen carcasses being despatched to the cold stores for treatment.

The effects of the experiments of the Ministry of Food at Guildford and Fareham were felt in the Rushden Abattoir, where the working conditions of the slaughtermen were improved by the installation of electrically operated saws and winches, and it is hoped that further improvements will follow the report of the Inter-Departmental Committee's report on meat inspection.

Ninety-two visits were made to shops, warehouses and stores, to inspect various foodstuffs, one ton of which was declared unfit for human consumption and destroyed or fed to animals.

The following tables will indicate the extent of the work carried out.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Bulls	Cows	Steers	Heifers	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number of animals slaughtered and inspected ...	34	1,103	1,087	832	1,220	9,858	3,867
TUBERCULOSIS							
1. Whole carcasses condemned ...	1	27	—	2	3	—	5
2. Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	2	288	100	75	—	—	145
TOTAL NUMBER OF ANIMALS AFFECTED WITH TUBERCULOSIS ...	3	315	100	77	3	—	150
3. Percentage of animals inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	8.8%	28.5%	9.2%	9.3%	0.2%		3.9%
4. General incidence 16.2% Adult Bovine							
OTHER DISEASES.							
Specific disease other than T.B. causing condemnation of the whole carcass.							
Emaciation ...	—	—	—	—	—	37	2
Fever—Acute ...	—	1	—	1	2	1	2
Immaturity ...	—	—	—	—	17	1	—
Gangrene ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Joint Ill ...	—	—	—	—	11	—	—
Mastitis (including septic) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Moribund ...	—	—	—	—	1	7	—
Peritonitis—Septic ...	1	—	1	1	1	—	5
Pericarditis—Septic ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia—including Gangrene ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pyaemia ...	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Septacaemia ...	—	1	—	—	6	2	8
Swine Erysipelas—Acute ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Uraemia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Metritis—Septic ...	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Pyleo-Nephritis ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Johnes Disease ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Nodular Necrosis ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised Dropsy... ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Toxaemia ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
TOTALS ...	1	6	1	4	40	50	20

Total number of animals slaughtered and inspected ... 18,001

Total number of whole carcasses condemned ... 160

Weight of Meat and Offal Condemned

	TUBERCULOSIS.				OTHER DISEASES.			
	Tons.	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.	Tons.	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Carcass Meat ...	9	4	1	8	7	1	2	25
Offal ...	8	14	2	2	14	1	2	20
	17	18	3	10	21	3	1	20

TOTAL WEIGHT ... 39 Tons 2 cwts. 1 qrs. 2 lbs.

Cysticercus Bovis

<i>No. of animals affected</i>	<i>No. showing head lesions</i>	<i>No. showing heart lesions</i>	<i>No. showing diaphragm lesions</i>	<i>No. affected in other locations</i>
19	19	5	1	Nil.

Number of visits to the Abattoir	...	...	...	...	415
Number of casualties admitted	...	...	...	...	1,851

UN SOUND FOOD

Tins of Meat	...	...	...	...	243
Tins of milk	...	...	...	...	101
Tins of vegetables	...	...	...	...	136
Tins of fruit	...	...	...	...	326
Tins of soup	...	...	...	...	4
Tins of fish	...	...	...	...	94
Tins of Tomatoes	...	...	...	...	756
Tins of baby food	...	...	...	...	18
Tins of sausages	...	...	...	...	11
Tins of jam	...	...	...	...	4
Tins of syrup	...	...	...	...	1
Jars of pickles	...	...	...	...	12
Pounds of fish	...	...	...	...	31
Pounds of ham	...	...	...	...	3
Pounds of sausages	...	...	...	...	237
Pounds of bacon	...	...	...	...	25
Pounds of almonds	...	...	...	...	15
Pounds of macaroons	...	...	...	...	132
Pounds of Cheese	...	...	...	...	1
Meat pies	...	...	...	...	52
Pork pies	...	...	...	...	38
Fish cakes	...	...	...	...	48
Chickens	...	...	...	...	16

The total weight being : 1 ton 0 cwts. 2 qrs. 8½ lbs.

PART 3.

HOUSING

For the first time since 1939, it was possible to visualize the end of a difficult phase in the housing situation. Eight years of relentless building of new houses reduced the waiting lists of applicants to reasonable proportions, and applicants from unfit houses were appearing at the top of the list with more regularity.

The Public Health Committee, after consulting the Housing Committee, decided to adopt a policy of allocating a small number of houses to replace slum clearance properties, and this policy will be put into action in 1953.

Ninety-seven inspections were made for the purpose of enforcing repair work, 31 houses being made fit after informal notices had been served ; it was necessary to serve formal notices in four cases.

One house was demolished after the application of Section 11 of the Housing Act, and five houses were closed. All tenants were re-housed by the Council.

	<i>No. of Houses</i>	<i>No. of persons displaced</i>
(1) Houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 11 ...	1	5
(2) Houses closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by the owners under Section 11, and still in force	5	12
Informal Action		

REPAIRS

(3) Number of unfit or defective houses rendered fit during the period as a result of informal action by the local authority under the Public Health or Housing Acts ...	31
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Action under Statutory Powers

(4) <i>Public Health Acts</i>	
Number of houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices (a) by owners	2
(5) <i>Housing Act, 1936.</i>	
Number of houses made fit after the service of formal notices (Sections 9. 10 and 16) (a) by owners	2

